

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2023

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Mr. Zach Ducheneaux
Administrator
Farm Service Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Administrator Ducheneaux

I write today concerning accounts of livestock loss due to extreme heat and humidity in Nebraska.

Nebraska leads the nation in every aspect of beef production. We are the top beef processing state, number one for cattle on feed, and the lead exporter to several nations around the world. Nebraska is the Beef State, and the beef industry has a profound impact on the lives of almost every Nebraskan.

Regrettably, I have heard from constituents about troubling reports of livestock loss due to extreme heat and humidity. Heat loss can pose a serious threat to the vitality of cattle operations and livelihoods of many hardworking Nebraskans. For generations, farmers and ranchers have voluntarily worked with experts on practices to protect the well-being of their livestock. Despite appropriate precautions, unexpected weather conditions can still present serious challenges for animals and those caring for them.

Congress has authorized the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to execute programs to help respond to the challenges undertaken by those in the livestock industry. I urge the USDA and the FSA to work quickly and diligently in responding to producers, providing technical assistance, processing applications, accurately calculating payments, and delivering payments quickly. In addition, I request periodic updates and briefings from your offices in response to livestock loss due to extreme weather in Nebraska.

As the Member of Congress proudly representing Nebraska's First Congressional District, I stand ready and willing to assist in any way possible to support Nebraska's cattle producers. I urge your utmost and immediate attention to this matter and look forward to your timely response.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Flood", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Michael J. Flood,
Member of Congress